

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Multidisciplinary Seed Funding Program for 2018

The Office of the Provost is pleased to announce the 2018 Multidisciplinary Seed Funding Program. The goal of this program is to provide seed funding for projects that: (a) involve areas relevant to institutional research priorities; (b) are multidisciplinary; and (c) have the potential to attract significant external funding. Proposals that involve collaborations across multiple colleges/schools are particularly encouraged. The seed funding is a one-time award to facilitate faculty collaborations and to help faculty improve their chances of external funding success.

Request for Proposals (RFP)

In an effort to support and promote the growth of multidisciplinary multi-investigator sponsored programs at UMass Dartmouth, the Office of the Provost invites faculty to submit proposals detailing their ideas for such research. A few team proposals will be funded that have:

- a) an innovative multidisciplinary research thrust,
- b) a definitive plan for attracting external funding, and
- c) an involvement of faculty researchers from multiple backgrounds and/or colleges/schools.

Proposal Submission Deadline

Complete proposals must be submitted electronically to the [Research Development Grant Portal](http://www.umassd.edu/research/). The portal is located on the Research Development website: <http://www.umassd.edu/research/>
Submission deadline is Friday, November 13, 2017 at 5:00 pm.

Eligibility

All UMass Dartmouth tenured and tenure-track faculty are eligible. The intent of this program is to fund new research projects proposed by new collaborations. Continuation funding for existing collaborations will not be considered. Previous award recipients will be considered when they participate in a distinctly new project with a new collaborative team.

Award Amounts

The total budget request may not exceed \$35,000. Please see budget guidelines below.

Obligations of Award Recipients

Each multidisciplinary team will be expected to:

- 1) Begin research on or around January 1, 2018 and complete the proposed work by June 30, 2018. Faculty should plan carefully to ensure that the proposed activities can be completed by June 30, 2018. No-cost extensions will not be approved and funds remaining at the end of the funding period will be returned to the Office of the Provost.**
- 2) Electronically submit a Research Progress Report to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development by July 31, 2018. PIs will be asked to provide information on grant proposals and publications in scholarly journals, including those submitted, pending, and in progress. PIs will also receive the reporting form on an annual basis for 2 additional years.**
- 3) Make an oral presentation along with other teams in the Fall of 2018.**

4) Acknowledge the support of the Office of the Provost when submitting articles for publication as a result of this award. The following statement can be used: *“This research was supported by the Seed Funding program from the Office of the Provost at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, USA.”*

5) Consult the Associate Provost for Research & Economic Development prior to discussing any potential intellectual property with a company and/or outside entity.

Proposal Format

- 1) **Cover Sheet:** [SPA Proposal Routing Form](#)
- 2) **Abstract:** one paragraph
- 3) **Narrative:** Not to exceed 5 pages and must include the following:
 - a) Problem Statement
 - b) Project Goals and Objectives
 - c) Project Design and Methodology
 - d) Innovativeness and Potential Impact
 - e) Research Team: Describe how the project will bring together investigators from multiple colleges, departments, and/or centers, additional resources (internal or external) and if this is a new group of collaborators or if members have worked together before.
 - f) Future Funding Sources: Clearly state how the project will help attract new or additional research funding. List the target funding agencies and/or programs and the rationale for choosing these funding mechanisms for the proposed project. Ensure that the programs have been thoroughly researched and are good fit for the proposed research. Discussion with relevant agency/program personnel is encouraged and interactions should be noted. Include a justification of why it is appropriate to apply for intramural seed funding at this time rather than directly apply to the target agency.
 - g) Research Timeline
 - h) Budget (Tentative budget not to exceed \$35,000): PIs are encouraged to discuss the budget with chairs and deans. If the department and/or college is going to provide some support, please state. Hiring of undergraduate or graduate students is highly encouraged. Stipends for faculty at collaborating institutions and UMass Dartmouth post-doctoral associates are not supported. Travel for the PI to meet with program officers at external agencies to discuss funding opportunities is supported. Travel to conferences/workshops is not supported.
 - i) Budget Justification: Justify all expenses and clearly outline each individual's role in the project. Requests for equipment, supplies, and services should be outlined in detail. Requests for items over \$500 must include a quote/estimate from the vendor. Seed Funding Program funds are not intended for large equipment purchases.
 - j) Grants: Include a list of current and pending grants including the agency, amount requested, and the project period. Please state if no current or pending grant applications.
- 4) **Curriculum Vitae:** (*Maximum of two pages, does not count toward page limit*). Include a CV for each PI that highlights work and publications relevant to this proposal.
- 5) **Intellectual Property Agreement:** If the proposed project includes collaboration with any institution other than UMass Dartmouth, the project team must consult with the Associate Provost for Research & Economic Development to determine if an intellectual property

agreement should be developed. A copy of this agreement should be included in the proposal if possible. The agreement must be in place prior to beginning the project.

Review Criteria

- a) **Multi-disciplinary and Team Qualifications: 25 points**
 - Does the research project entail a new collaboration in the context of the Seed Funding Program?
 - Does the proposed project have an innovative multidisciplinary thrust and does it involve faculty researchers from multiple backgrounds, colleges, or institutions?
 - Does the team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project?
 - Are the investigators appropriately trained and well suited to carry out the work?
- b) **Problem Description: 10 points**
 - Does the study address an important problem?
 - If the project goals are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced?
- c) **Innovativeness and Potential Impact: 10 points**
 - What will be the effect of the study on the concepts, methods and technologies that drive this field?
 - Are the theories, approaches, etc. novel to one field or novel in the broader sense?
- d) **Project Design and Methodology: 15 points**
 - Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well-reasoned and appropriate to the goals of the project?
- e) **Success Prospect/Environment: 10 points**
 - Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success?
 - Do the proposed study benefit from unique features of the academic environment, subject populations or other regional resources?
- f) **Budget Reasonable: 5 points**
 - Is the budget reasonable?
 - Does the proposal bring additional or matching resources?
- g) **Funding Prospect: 25 points**
 - What is the likelihood that this study will lead to attracting external funding?
 - Is there a definitive plan for attracting new research dollars from extramural sources to continue the work?
 - Do the applicants adequately justify why it is appropriate to apply for this intramural seed funding rather than apply directly to the target external agency at this time?

For questions about the RFP and preliminary review before submission, please contact Stefanie Picard (Stefanie.picard@umassd.edu) in the Office of Research Development

